



Rossall Beach Residents Association

Rossall Beach Residents Association & Neighbourhood Watch

*'Working together to improve the area for
residents & visitors'*

Newsletter Autumn 09

Edition 4

Message from the Chair

It's been another hectic quarter on Rossall Beach, and once again we've got lots to tell you.

Dave and I have been working hard with the ever patient people at Wyre Borough Council with our new report into the state of the prom which is mentioned later in this newsletter. It won't be an immediate transformation but in the next few years the whole place should be looking much smarter and tidier! We aren't just about dog muck and trivial issues – if you've been following our progress you'll know that we have already moved mountains in our first year, for example the recent pavement re-surfacing was entirely down to our campaigning.

Meanwhile, we've all been out in force with another beach clean, applied for a Neighbourhood Award, raised funds for next year's projects, and encouraged the public down to our beach at the kiting event (even though the weather was foul!). It's all been really good entertainment and a worthwhile way of having fun with like-minded people.

We are always on the look-out for people who want to get involved. Everyone has a worthwhile talent that can be put to good use, so if you want to help with the next fund raising or social event, or have the comfort of being part of a group then just get in touch. This group will only succeed if we all pull together and help – and there's no reason why that shouldn't happen! That's why we are running our 'Do you feel passionate?' campaign and we are leafleting the whole of the Rossall Beach area to encourage everyone to get involved. I know that there are lots of like-minded people all over the area who would love to belong to a group just like this and who feel passionate about reducing anti-social behaviour, improving the environment, and who want to belong to the community of days gone by, and you are all more than welcome to come along and join in. Remember, there is always strength in numbers! *Jane Littlewood, Chair*

A word from the Secretary....

As well as the normal traditional duties associated with the position of Secretary, I also run the Association's website, including the complete design, implementation and maintenance of the site. Soon after the Association was formed I quickly put together and launched a very basic website which consisted of a few pictures and text over about eight pages. We now have over 30 static pages, over 100 downloadable pages and almost 200 pictures. It's quite amazing how this has grown in only 12 months and we are quickly approaching a complete redesign of the site in order to cope with the vast increase in material displayed, which will keep me occupied during the forthcoming long winter evenings!

I would really appreciate some feedback from anyone who regularly uses the site or has just visited occasionally with suggestions of what you would like to see. There are lots of things we could introduce like a message forum for comments, offers of help and assistance or simply ask questions. What about an up to date weather forecast for the area, this could be particularly useful for visitors and also residents who have a second home at Cleveleys? Another possibility is a live 'webcam' so that live pictures of the beach can be viewed on any computer anywhere in the world! The possibilities are endless so please, if you have any suggestions just let me know. You can either phone me on 01253 829390 or email secretary@rossallbeach.org.uk . *David Hewitt*

Thornton Gate Scheme

Regular followers of Rossall Beach Residents will already know that our first major victory was to secure funding through Lancashire Locals for a scheme at the top of Thornton Gate to reduce anti-social driving. Work started on 3rd August when the three drains were re-positioned on the road from their original position on the sloped side of the dropped kerb. We knew that the drain outside Rossall Court was broken because Jim Bolton had fallen through the tarmac about a year ago! When the other drains were exposed they were also found to be broken, so it's a good job that they were in the wrong place and had to be inspected. Speeding has been happening on Rossall Prom for years and years, so this is a major step in the right direction to reduce the amount of speed that can be achieved along the promenade. Well done Rossall Beach Residents!

A few weeks previously, we'd discovered that funds had been found by Lancashire County Council to replace the pavement from the hump in the road to the corner of Thornton Gate. David and Jane had been campaigning hard through LCC and WBC to try and get the pavements and roads looked at, but pavements through the borough being what they are with limited funds to replace them, they both expected it to be a long, long slog to get them done. The road works are completed and it all looks much tidier and safer now, so a big thank you to Lancashire County Council for all their efforts.

Our Grand Plan

When we started in the summer of 2008, the condition of the fabric of the whole promenade area was found to be of great concern to both residents and visitors alike. Issues like the condition of the sea wall and apron (the bit that holds the beach back), the lack of bins and benches, and the generally shabby state of the area – especially when compared to the new promenade past the cafe.

Jane and David have spent a lot of time creating a report which has been submitted to key people at Wyre Borough Council that highlights the condition of the area, and why it should be improved. The report is available to view on our website, on the 'Priorities' page or with this link www.rossallbeach.org.uk/priorities.html

The report has been accepted in principle and Rob Posner, the Director of Neighbourhood Services is looking into how the North and Rossall Prom area can be improved, and how work can be funded.

Christmas Lights Event

On 26 November, all the community groups of Cleveleys will come together for a lovely celebration to mark the switch on of the Christmas tree lights. Meet at the Frank Townend Centre car park at 4pm to parade to the Plaza on the prom for an open air carol concert, followed by a glow stick procession to the tree outside Supashoppa for the switch on, then a mulled wine celebration.

Christmas Hamper Raffle

To raise seasonal funds we are asking for donated goods to create a hamper, and then we'll be selling tickets to family, friends and neighbours. There's a list circulating to pick which item you would like to donate, and anyone who would like to sell tickets just put your name forward! We'd like to hold a 'Special Christmas Coffee Morning' for a festive get together to draw the prize .

Kite Festival on Rossall Beach

To show off our clean and tidy beach, and showcase the growing interest in water sports at Rossall, we staged our first Kite event on 16th August, with Fleetwood Kite Club and Hangtime Kites. Unfortunately, the weather was exceptionally windy - too windy to fly the large stunt and demonstration kites, but Fleetwood Kite Club still managed to stage kite surfing demonstrations throughout the early afternoon. Hangtime Kites fly some of their smaller exhibition kites, and ran buggies on the beach for the kids to try out, so all was not completely lost.

We'd intended making a celebration from the event – we managed to get the bunting on the lamp posts but the stall we'd intended to have to raise funds with a tombola and the sale of gifts ended up having to be cancelled. We did have a street collection and raised £75 even though there were so few people out and about.

Our aim is to build on this event year on year, and make it into a large scale Kite Festival. So if anyone would like to get involved and start working with us on next years event please get in touch!

How to hold a Car Boot Sale!

We've been raising funds through the year, to pay for room hire, and our minimal running costs, and to build up a reserve for future projects. We have held raffles and draws at meetings, but we wanted to raise a bit more money more quickly, so a couple of Indoor Car Boot Sales have been held, one in July and one in August. We tried to get a venue as near to us as we could, and it was decided to use the hall at the United Reform Church next to the library – where they hold sales themselves. When we discovered that the waiting list for a table was two years, we thought we'd better hire the hall and do the whole lot!

Janice Pickup volunteered to muster the troops, and held a day of pricing in her garage, and then packed everyone's cars up the night before ready for an early start. The first event was a learning curve, and Malcoms help from the church was invaluable – he suggested entrance by donation, and that we should be serving tea and coffee at the second event.

All in all, the first sale raised £245 and the second one raised £252 which is a brilliant boost to funds. **A BIG well done to you all!**

One thing was learned though, that Car Boot Sales are hard work, so if anyone else would like to get involved and contribute some time towards the next one, it would be much appreciated!

Our first Annual General Meeting!

Our first ever AGM on 26th August got off to a flying start with a rousing speech from the Leader of the Council, Cllr Russell Forsyth, who spoke about how our pressure group has just the right attitude to get things done – rather than the 'I want therefore I must have' attitude that gets a lot of groups a bad name.

This was our chance to show the general public what we have achieved in our first full year, and our Annual Report is available to view on line, or you can have a printed copy by request. It was a well attended event, where residents had a chance to talk to officers from the council, Church and councillors. Vue Cinema and Marks & Spencers kindly donated prizes for the raffle.

We are pleased to announce that we have two new Trustees, Pam Molton and Audrey Bolton, who have both been heavily involved with the group since it started. Well done for joining up ladies!

We have two full open meetings a year for the general public, the AGM and another in March, but any member who wants to get more involved (or just wants to keep up with what's happening) is more than welcome to come along to our regular monthly meetings. Dates on the 'Cut out and Keep' bit!

An Award for the Neighbourhood!

I mentioned in my introduction that we have started working towards more substantial improvements to the fabric of the promenade, but meanwhile you can't have failed to notice how much cleaner and tidier everything looks.

We have held three beach cleans this year – it's a bit like painting the Forth Bridge, in that every time we clean the beach it's as bad again with the next rough tide. However, the digger has moved all the rubble, and we have cleaned enormous quantities of rubbish away which means that Alan (the paid beach cleaner) can better keep it under control in between. We've swept the steps and round the benches and all in all it all looks much, much tidier than it did this time last year.

To mark the achievement of our work, we have applied for a Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Award, which is all about how a community pulls together to improve the environment. Results are to be announced in October, and we have already been told that we have won something, so hopefully we will do well!

Two more beach cleans are planned – 13th October and 1st December, 9.30 at the Hump. All equipment provided.

Update on the Bins

The lack of bins and dog-bins has been a hot topic on Rossall Beach for a long time, but is one thing that is close to being resolved. There is a plan working its way through the system, which will see brand new litter bins placed at the parking area, and will re-use the four new bins currently on Rossall Prom. The new bins in the parking area will also be re-positioned next to the sea wall and well away from damage being caused by parked vans and cars, and the occasional car which flies onto the beach!

Dog walkers will know that the poor dog bin situation has been rectified – with the worst of the dog bins having been replaced, and a new one sited next to the steps on North Prom near the cafe. There is now no excuse to not pick up dog waste and bin it.

Can we thank Alan at this point for the work he does over and above the call of duty of his employment with Fylde Borough Council (who have the contract for street cleansing). Alan keeps the bins empty at the weekends while there are no collections, and without him we would really struggle to keep the place clean and tidy. It is appreciated Alan, keep up the good work!

'Tea on the Beach'

We've spent quite a lot of time during this year cleaning the beach up, so we thought it might be a good idea to enjoy the fruits of our labours with some beach parties! We've had one and a half events so far this year (the 'half' one was when it rained on Janes 40th birthday and we all had to go in!).

The weather at the first one in June couldn't have been better if we'd ordered it – it was red hot and still and we sat at the edge of the sea as the tide went out. We all brought our own food and drinks and a chair apiece, and musical entertainment was provided by Carmel's CD player! We had a group paddle, a glass of wine, and a lovely evening on our beach.

On Jane's birthday we were all set up for a party, with balloons and the birthday girl with a bottle of champagne. The sky was dark but we managed to eat our tea, before the rain came and we all trooped home. We would have had more beach parties but a lack of a 'barbecue summer' put paid to that!

Monitoring Anti-social behaviour on Rossall Prom

Most of you will know that ASB problems were why this group formed in the first place – the range of problems we experience are unfair to people living here, and unfair to the increasing numbers of tourists and people who enjoy spending time here.

We have put a great deal of effort into working with Lancashire Police to put measures in place to police the area better and send out a clear message that anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated and the police are stamping it out. You will have seen recently there's been a heightened police presence on Rossall Prom.

There is also a message to all of us from the Police – that **we should all report any incident of ASB that we see and get a log number**, even if it doesn't require a visit from a police patrol. It is only by logging every incident that we can prove there are problems on Rossall Prom, and then steps can be put in place to address them. The Police Control Centre is 876611.

Everyone is welcome to come to PACT meetings, the dates of the next ones are in this newsletter. You can also bring any concerns to Residents meetings, and we occasionally have visitors to our meetings from the Police.

REMEMBER: IF YOU THINK IT'S WRONG, RING IT IN - Ring 876611 and log everything suspicious that you see.

Our new Waterfront Ranger

Rossall Beach have been very pleased to work with Keith Urwin, the Wyre Borough Council Waterfront Ranger, during this year. Keith has been a big help with the beach cleans – with grant funding for equipment, gathering extra volunteers and co-ordinating the beach cleans (not to mention getting rid of the rubbish!). Keith is now covering other venues in Wyre, although he's going to carry on helping out when he can on our beach and we now have a new Waterfront Ranger -

'By way of introduction my name is Len Blacow and I have worked for Wyre Borough Council Countryside Service since 1991 spending several years as a Countryside Ranger before taking up managerial roles. I took the opportunity to get back out in the field during a recent restructure of the Countryside Service.

'It was good to see so many of you at the last beach clean, it also gave me the opportunity to look at the beach in more detail and gather ideas for guided walks etc. I have an interest in all things natural and contribute to many local and national wildlife surveys. 'The shingle beach holds a range of typical wildflowers including sea kale, sea mayweed, sea rocket, sea sandwort and frosted orache some of which are edible (if you are hungry or desperate enough!), there was a flock of 45 turnstones on the beach some were immature birds and others were adults newly returned from their breeding grounds in Scandinavia two ringed plovers in the

flock were probably birds that had summered in the area. The shingle beach between Cleveleys and Rossall Point is fairly important for wintering turnstones with several hundred in the area from late October to April, when higher tides cover the beaches the birds resort to resting on the island at Fleetwood Marine Lake.

'The strandline proved interesting with a lot of knotted wrack (seaweed) washed ashore, when gathered fresh it can be finely chopped and used as a fertiliser in the garden, Keith found a nice example of a cuttlefish bone, good for sharpening budgie beaks and several dogfish egg cases. Your beach may not look the most attractive but it certainly isn't without interest and I look forward to caring for it with you.' *Len Blacow*

People watching -

Our beach is the wonderful place for watching people, it conjures up the most wonderful memories of my childhood - my dad built a van that had bench seats in the back (no seat belts in those days) and we all used to pile in the back along with the primus stove, frying pan, bacon and eggs and kettle, not forgetting the potty! No matter what the weather, we would unpack the van of all our belongings, chairs for mum and dad, rug on the sand for us, a big wind break, cricket set, fishing nets and buckets and spades. Dad would set the stall out and sit in his chair not even taking his shoes off - we learnt later in life that he hated the feeling of sand on his feet- we never knew this and it never stopped him getting stuck in playing cricket or helping us fish, or building the biggest sand castle on the beach. If the sun was shining and I know it did all the time! We would all take a dip in the sea wearing our woollen swimming costumes, which when wet stretched to your toes. we ran about kicking a ball or chasing our kites. On the journey home we'd chatter about the great day we'd had and one by one drop off to sleep, only waking up as dad stopped outside our house. Now I watch the same story unfolding with families and friends, the same equipment, the same games, and especially the same love and fun being shared, this is the most special part of living by the beach for me, watching people enjoying themselves. *Janice Pickup*

Membership

It's important that you register your name and address to make sure you get up to date information, newsletters and your right to elect Officers at the Annual General Meeting. For the time being membership will be free to all, so put your name down and keep up to date with the goings-on on Rossall Beach! The more people who sign up, the greater weight of support that we can demonstrate for our projects and requests, so everyone counts!

However, Rossall Beach is not just used by residents, and people from outside our catchment are more than welcome to show their support with Associate Membership and attending meetings and events. We would like to enlist as much support as we can from anyone from anywhere – involving the wider community is one of the main Objects of the Association and the help and support of all of you is vital to the success of the group.

If you haven't already joined, this is the last newsletter that you will receive automatically. If you want to continue to receive information from Rossall Beach Residents you need to register as a member. From the start of this year, only Trustees and regular attenders at meetings will automatically receive minutes and agendas – but anyone else is welcome to them on request.

Dates for your Diary - Cut out and keep!

Monthly Rossall Beach Meetings: 6pm at Frank Townend Centre

21 October
18 November
16 December
13 January
10 February
10 March – Open Meeting
7 April
5 May
2 June
30 June
28 July
25 August – AGM

PACT Meetings:

6pm at Frank Townend Centre
13 October
17 November
22 December

Christmas Lights Event

26 November from 4pm

Beach Cleans:

9.30am at the Hump on Rossall Promenade
13 October
1 December
Early February

The committee of the Residents Association:

Jane Littlewood
Dave Hewitt
Freda Tomlinson
Janice Pickup
Jim Bolton

Chair, 854145
Secretary, 829390
Treasurer
Fund-raising co-ordinator
Neighbourhood Watch

Stephen Pickup
David Yule
Beryl Hancock
Val Pounder
Pam Moulton

Audrey Bolton

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If you would like to make a suggestion, donation or ask for further information, ring 854145, or visit our website www.rossallbeach.org.uk